

Appl. No. 10/660223
Reply to Office action of 9/17/2004

IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A small-sized surface boat comprising:
 - a hull;
 - a deck constituting an upper surface of the hull;
 - a seat which extends in a fore-and-aft direction mounted on the deck;
 - an approximately horizontal flat portion formed behind the seat and on a rear end portion of the deck;
 - an inclined surface portion having an upward gradient in the frontward direction from a front end of the flat portion; and
 - a finger catching groove in a front end of the inclined surface portion to be caught by a finger of an extended hand from a rear side of the hull;
 - wherein a level of a bottom surface of the finger catching groove is set equal to or higher than a level of the flat portion, and left-side and right-side inclined groove portions extend from both ends of the finger catching groove to the flat portion whereby water reserved in the finger catching groove is made to flow to the flat portion.
2. Canceled.
3. Canceled.
4. Canceled.
5. Canceled.

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6. Canceled.

7. (Currently amended) A small-sized surface boat according to claim ~~6~~11, wherein the cover provides access to an opening in the deck for maintenance of equipment in a lower portion of the deck.

8. (Original) A small-sized surface boat according to claim 7, wherein the opening is covered by a lid that hermetically seals the opening against intrusion of water into the lower portion of the deck.

9. Canceled.

10. (New) A small-sized surface boat comprising:

a hull;

a deck constituting an upper surface of the hull;

a seat which extends in a fore-and-aft direction mounted on the deck;

an approximately horizontal flat portion formed behind the seat and on a rear end portion of the deck;

an inclined surface portion having an upward gradient in the frontward direction from a front end of the flat portion; and

a finger catching groove in a front end of the inclined surface portion to be caught by a finger of an extended hand from a rear side of the hull, the finger catching groove being partially constituted by a cover which forms a continuous inclined surface that extends with an upward gradient from the flat portion to the seat.

11. (New) A small-sized surface boat comprising:

a hull;

a deck constituting an upper surface of the hull;

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a seat which extends in a fore-and-aft direction mounted on the deck;

an approximately horizontal flat portion formed behind the seat and on a rear end portion of the deck;

an inclined surface portion having an upward gradient in the frontward direction from a front end of the flat portion;

a finger catching groove in a front end of the inclined surface portion to be caught by a finger of an extended hand from a rear side of the hull; and

a cover mounted between the inclined surface portion and the seat, the cover being set approximately coplanar with the inclined surface portion and an inclination approximately equal to an inclination of the inclined surface portion.